

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

In Re Patent Application of:)	
)	Examiner: Chang, Kent Wu
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Webb et al.)	Art Unit: 2629
)	
Application No. 09/932,213)	
)	
Filed: August 17, 2001)	
)	
For: A MOBILE DEVICE HAVING MOVEABLE)	
SEGMENTS THAT CAN BE ADJUSTED TO)	
AFFECT AN OVERALL LENGTH (AS AMENDED))	
)	

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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
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APPEAL BRIEF

Dear Sir/Madam:

Further to the Notice of Appeal filed June 13, 2006 in connection with the above-referenced application, applicant hereby requests reconsideration of the final rejection of the claims of the application in view of the remarks below. No amendments are being filed herewith.

I. REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

The real party in interest is Palm Inc., the assignee of record

II. RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

There are no related appeals or interferences. The above-referenced application, Application No. 09/932,213, was the subject of a Pre-Appeal Brief filed June 13, 2006.

III. STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-50 are pending. Each pending claim stands rejected and each rejection is appealed.

IV. STATUS OF AMENDMENTS

Applicant has not amended any of the claims subsequent to receipt of the Final Office Action dated March 13, 2006.

V. SUMMARY OF CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER

Five independent claims are pending: Claim 1 Claim 19, Claim 27, Claim 41, and Claim 45.

Claim 1 relates to a mobile device having first and second segments [Specification, page 7, line 23 – page 8, line 2]. The second segment is coupled to the first segment in such a way that the second segment is able to move, without pivoting, along one axis of the first segment between contracted and extended positions [Specification, page 8, lines 3-6]. A display assembly is located on the first segment and a first input mechanism is located on the second segment [Specification, page 8, lines 7-10]. When the second segment is in the contracted position, the first input mechanism overlays a portion of the display assembly and when the second segment is in the extended position, the first input mechanism is positioned away from the display assembly so that the portion of the display assembly is accessible to user contact [Specification, page 6, lines 12-18].

Claim 19 relates to a mobile device having a first segment with a display assembly accessible on the front surface of the first segment, and a second segment slideably coupled to the first segment so that the second segment moves, without pivoting, between a contracted position and an extended position [Specification, page 8, lines 3-6, page 6, lines 14-16]. As the device moves between contracted and extended positions, the overall length of the mobile device is maximized in the extended position and minimized in the contracted position [Specification, page 8, lines 1-2, page 10, lines 10-15]. In the contracted position, the second segment is positioned so that it overlays and reduces an area of the contact sensitive display that is accessible to contact [Specification, page 6, lines 19-21].

Claim 27 relates to a housing assembly for a mobile device, the housing assembly consisting of first and second segments [Specification, page 13, lines 4-9, page 14, lines 11-18]. The first housing has a front surface with an opening on the front surface to provide access to a display for the mobile device [Specification, page 13, lines 10-15]. The second housing segment is coupled to the first housing segment so that it moves, without pivoting between extended and contracted positions [Specification, page 8, lines 3-6]. In the contracted position, the second housing segment overlays a first region of the opening of the first housing segment [Specification, page 16, lines 3-9, page 17, lines 3-6]. As the second housing segment is moved from the contracted position toward the extended position, the first region of the opening that is overlaid by the second housing segment is reduced [Specification, page 8, lines 16-22]. The overall length of the housing assembly is maximized when the second housing is in the extended position and minimized when the housing is in the contracted position [Specification, page 8, lines 1-2, page 10, lines 10-15].

Claim 41 relates to a mobile device with first and second segments, the first segment having a first set of input features and the second segment having a second set of input features [Specification, page 6, lines 12-15, page 16, lines 14-16, and page 21, lines 10-18]. The second segment is slideably coupled to the first segment so that it moves, without pivoting between a contracted position and an extended position [Specification, page 8, lines 3-6]. The overall length of the mobile device is maximized when the second segment is in the extended position and minimized when the second segment is in the contracted position

[Specification, page 8, lines 1-2, page 10, lines 10-15]. As the second segment is being moved from the extended position to the contracted position, the second segment overlays a portion of the first segment so the overall length of the mobile device is reduced [Specification page 3, lines 2-8, page 6, lines 19-21].

Claim 45 relates to a mobile device having a first segment with a display assembly and a second segment with a first input mechanism [Specification page 6, lines 10-18]. The second segment is moveably coupled to the first segment so that the second segment moves, without pivoting between a contracted position and an extended position [Specification, page 8, lines 3-6]. The overall length of the mobile device is minimized when the second segment is in the contracted position and maximized when the second segment is in the extended position [Specification, page 8, lines 1-2, page 10, lines 10-15]. When the second segment is in the contracted position, the first and second segments are partially overlaid so that access to at least one of either the first input mechanism and the display assembly is at least partially blocked [Specification, page 21, lines 10-18].

VI. GROUNDS OF REJECTION TO BE REVIEWED ON APPEAL

Applicant respectfully requests review of whether claims 1-50 are obvious under 103(a) by U.S. Patent No. 6,542,721 to *Boesen* (“*Boesen*”) as held in the Final Office Action.

VII. ARGUMENT

Applicant submits that 1-50 each include one or more limitations not disclosed by *Boesen* and therefore are not obvious in view of *Boesen*.

In considering the arguments presented, Applicant requests that the Board review the pending claims of the application in two Groups:

Group 1: Claims 1-18.

Group II: Claims 19-50.

1. Claims 1-50 Stand Rejected Under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as Being Obvious Over Boesen (U.S. Patent No. 6,542,721)

Kindly consider the following arguments.

(A) Claim 1 (Group I)

Claim 1 is allowable over the cited art for reasons that include the following. Pertinent portions of Claim 1 state a mobile device that comprises:

a second segment moveably coupled to the first segment to move primarily along one axis *without pivoting*, between a *contracted position and an extended position*, wherein an overall length of the mobile device is (i) maximized when the second segment is in the extended position and (ii) reduced when the second segment is moved towards the contracted position as compared to when the second segment is in the extended position...

wherein [a] first input mechanism overlays a portion of the display assembly when the second segment is in the contracted position,

Claim 1 requires (i) a second segment that can move between an extended position and a contracted position, and this movement is primarily along one axis and without pivoting, (ii) when the second segment is in the extended position, the device has a maximum length, (iii) a first input mechanism overlays a portion of the display assembly when the second segment is in the contracted position.

(i) *Boesen* does not teach all elements of Claim 1

The rejection set forth to this claim does not establish a *prima facie* obviousness rejection, because *Boesen* does not teach or suggest all claim limitations of Claim 1. Specifically, Claim 1 recites segments of a device that are coupled to one another to move primarily along one axis, without pivoting, into a contracted position (in which an input mechanism of one segment overlays the display of another segment). Because *Boesen* does not teach all elements of Claim 1, the rejection to this claim does not meet the *prima facie*

requirement for obviousness rejections.

Boesen discloses a first segment and a second segment that are pivotally coupled by various kinds of hinge mechanisms. In making the rejection, the Examiner relies on the teachings of *Boesen* that accompany FIG. 7. In this part of *Boesen*, Applicant concedes that a first segment (cellular transceiver 4) does move between an extended and contracted position, and in the contracted position, the first segment overlays a second segment (PDA portion 38) on which a display is provided. But this teaching of *Boesen* requires a pivot motion to move the first segment (cellular transceiver 4) to the contracted position.

Boesen shows and teaches a contracted state (see FIG. 10). For the device of *Boesen*, the contracted position must be one where the cellular transceiver segment overlays the PDA portion segment (such as exemplified by FIG. 10). For *Boesen*, movement from an extended position (as exemplified by FIG. 7) into the contracted position requires a pivot. Specifically, the following must happen: (i) from an extended position in which both the cellular transceiver segment and the PDA portion are co-planar (as shown in FIG. 7), (ii) the cellular transceiver portion **must lift up** and simultaneously move towards the PDA portion so that the entire housing of the cellular transceiver portion overlays the display of the PDA portion. This is a pivotal coupling, because the cellular transceiver must lift up while moving towards the PDA portion. This pivotal coupling does not satisfy Claim 1, which requires “movement primarily along one axis, without pivoting,” when moving the second segment into the contracted position.

A careful and accurate reading of *Boesen* supports a conclusion that the two segments in *Boesen* are coupled with a pivot or other multi-dimensional coupling. Every embodiment of *Boesen* teaches the use of a “hinge” or other coupling requiring movement in two or more directions¹. In FIG. 7, for example, *Boesen* teaches that the two segments are coupled using a “slide **hinge**”. While the term “slide” in and of itself would constitute “movement primarily along one direction”, in *Boesen*, the term “slide” only modifies “hinge”. The two terms are used together to describe one element. The combined term simply provides meaning that is

¹ See *Boesen*, describing “one or more slide hinges, lateral hinges, collapsible hinges, slide joints, lateral joints or similar mechanisms. Column 5, lines 65-68; and the ratchet mechanism on Column 6, lines 1-15.

consistent with the interpretation provided by Applicant for *Boesen* (one segment lifts up and towards the other). In fact, every pertinent definition of “hinge” in the English language requires a pivot, rotation, or other multi-dimensional movement accompanying a coupling². Furthermore, all of the figures and illustrations of *Boesen* support a hinge or two multi-dimensional coupling mechanisms (e.g. See FIG. 10 of *Boesen*). Since *Boesen* teaches two housing segments that are pivotally connected to one another, *Boesen* does not teach the claim element corresponding to two housing segments moveably coupled to move along a primary axis, without pivoting, as recited by Claim 1.

Boesen’s text is supportive of the assertions made above. For example, with FIG. 7, *Boesen* states “the slide hinge allows the cellular transceiver portion of the personal electronic device to **slide past** the PDA portion of the electronic device, so that both the cellular transceiver and the PDA are accessible at the same time (*Boesen*, Col. 5 lines 29-32).

(ii) *Boesen* cannot be modified to sustain *prima facie* obviousness rejection for Claim 1

In order to establish a *prima facie* obviousness rejection on the single reference of *Boesen*, the Examiner must also show how *Boesen* could be modified. In making arguments for such a modification, Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner has misconstrued *Boesen* when applying it to the claims. In the Final Office Action (page 5, line 19) of March 13, 2006, the Examiner made the following statement regarding the teaching of *Boesen*:

wherein the pivotable mechanism is operative independently from the operation of the sliding operation. It would have been obvious for one ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to eliminate such a pivotable mechanism in the device of *Boesen*...Omission of element and its function in combination is obvious expedient if remaining elements perform same functions as before. In re Karlson, (CCPA) 136 USPQ 184 (1963).

Applicant respectfully submits this rational is in error. Contrary to Examiner’s

² From various online sources, hinge definition:

- A jointed or flexible device that allows the turning or pivoting of a part, such as a door or lid, on a stationary frame. www.nachi.org/glossary/h.htm
- A point in a structure at which a member is free to rotate. www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/I82/KeysRd/BridgeGlossary.htm
- **a** : a jointed or flexible device on which a door, lid, or other swinging part turns **b** : a flexible ligamentous joint (Merriam Webster) www.m-w.com/dictionary/hinge

assertion, *Boesen* does not teach the “pivotable mechanism is operative independently of the operation of the sliding operation.” In the Office Action, the Examiner does not state a basis for making such a conclusion of *Boesen*. And on a close reading, *Boesen* teaches the opposite of Examiner’s assertion. Specifically, *Boesen* teaches use of hinges or other pivoting mechanisms (e.g. slide hinge), none of which teach a pivotable mechanism that is independently operable of the sliding operation. For this reason, Applicant submits that the Examiner has not shown how the modification can be made to *Boesen* to teach or suggest the elements of Claim 1.

Moreover, the assertion that the “pivotable mechanism is operative independently of the operation of the sliding operation” is an improper form of analysis. This assertion infers a coupling mechanism as part of Claim 1, and then analogizes a pivot coupling mechanism to a linear coupling mechanism. The result of this sequence of inference and analogy is that the Examiner’s modification of *Boesen* is out of context to what Claim 1 recites.

Claim 1 does not recite a coupling mechanism that can be analogized or substituted by other coupling mechanisms with little effect. Claim 1 recites a relationship between two segments, and the relationship is that the two segments move between two positions (extended and contracted) with specific results at each position (e.g. contracted position provides overlay of input mechanism over display) and the movement is primarily along one axis, without pivoting. For *Boesen* to apply to Claim 1, more modification is needed than eliminating the pivot from the so-called pivotable mechanism. The Examiner must show how the segments of *Boesen* can be moved primarily along one axis, without pivoting, between the contracted position (e.g. See FIG. 10, in which the input mechanism of the cellular transceiver portion overlays the display of the PDA portion) and the extended position (e.g. see FIG. 7). This is what Claim 1 states. The rejection to Claim 1 does not make such a showing. In fact, the showing cannot be made because it would be a redesign and not a modification of the device taught in *Boesen*.

Because *Boesen* fails to recite at least the above recited limitation, *Boesen* does not render Claim 1, nor Claims 2–18 which depend from and further limit claim 1 obvious.

B. Claims 19-50 (Group II)

Group II Claims are similar in that each claim of the group requires (in varying language) (i) a second (housing) segment that can move between an extended position and a contracted position, and this movement is primarily along one axis and without pivoting, (ii) when the second (housing) segment is in the extended position, the device is at its maximum length, and (iii) when the second (housing) segment is in the contracted position, the device is at its minimum length.

(i) *Boesen* does not teach all elements of Group II Claims

As recited with the corresponding arguments made for Claim 1, the rejection set forth to these claims do not establish a *prima facie* obviousness rejection. As explained above, *Boesen* does not teach or suggest all claim limitations of the Group II Claims. Specifically, the Group II Claims each recite segments (or housing segments in the case of Claim 19) of a device that are coupled to one another to move primarily along one axis, without pivoting, into a contracted position (in which an input mechanism of one segment overlays the display of another segment). With regard to this feature, the arguments summarized in this paragraph and presented in preceding sections with Claim 1 are repeated.

(ii) *Boesen* cannot be modified to sustain *prima facie* obviousness rejection for Group II Claims

In order to establish a *prima facie* obviousness rejection on the single reference of *Boesen*, the Examiner must also show how *Boesen* could be modified. As described above in the corresponding section for Claim 1, the Examiner has failed to make this showing.

Claim 19 and 27 each have an additional distinction over *Boesen*. Specifically, Claim 19 recites:

second segment [is] slideably coupled to the first segment to move, without pivoting, between a contracted position and an extended position, wherein an overall length of mobile computing device is (i) maximized when the second segment is in the extended position, and (ii) ***minimized*** when the second segment is in the contracted position...

Likewise, Claim 27 recites:

wherein an overall length of the housing assembly is (i) maximized when the second housing segment is in the extended position, and (ii) minimized when the second housing segment is in the contracted position

Claims 41 and 45 recite:

wherein an overall length of the mobile device is (i) maximized when the second segment is in the extended position, and (ii) minimized when the second segment is in the contracted position

With regard to the Group II Claims, Applicant requests consideration of additional reasoning for allowance. Applicant submits that the device of *Boesen* can only have one contracted position when the length of the device is at a minimum, and one extended position where the length of the device is at a maximum. *Boesen* is clear that an arrangement of FIG. 7 is an extended position (maximum length), and an arrangement of FIG. 10 is a contracted position (minimum length). For a rejection to be proper, it is a requirement that *Boesen* contain some teaching or suggestion as to how the segments that comprise that device can go from the maximum length position to the minimum length position “without pivoting”. There is no such teaching.

Even if the Examiner was correct in interpretation and in making his assertions, the rejections to date have failed to establish the segments that comprise that device can go from the maximum length position to the minimum length position “without pivoting”. Rather, the Examiner has only attempted to establish that *Boesen*’s device can be modified to have some linear motion between the two segments (which Applicant contends herein is an incorrect interpretation), not that a linear motion can be used to move the segments of *Boesen* to respective positions where the device has maximum and minimum lengths. This is another reason why a proper *prima facie* case for making the obviousness rejection is lacking.

VIII. CLAIMS APPENDIX

1. (Previously Presented) A mobile device comprising:
 - a first segment;
 - a second segment moveably coupled to the first segment to move primarily along one axis without pivoting, between a contracted position and an extended position, wherein an overall length of the mobile device is (i) maximized when the second segment is in the extended position and (ii) reduced when the second segment is moved towards the contracted position as compared to when the second segment is in the extended position;
 - a display assembly provided by the first segment;
 - a first input mechanism provided by the second segment;wherein the first input mechanism overlays a portion of the display assembly when the second segment is in the contracted position, and wherein the first input mechanism is positioned away from the display assembly so that the portion of the display assembly is accessible to contact by a user when the second segment is in the extended position.
2. (Previously Presented) The mobile device of claim 1, wherein the display assembly includes a first section having a cross-section comprising a digitizer pad and a screen, and a second section comprising the digitizer pad without the screen, and wherein the portion of the display assembly that is overlaid by the first input mechanism includes the second section.

3. (Previously Presented) The mobile device of claim 1, wherein the display assembly includes a character recognition section configured to immediately recognize and display assembly a character entry, and wherein the portion of the display assembly that is overlaid by the first input mechanism includes the immediate character recognition section.

4. (Previously Presented) The mobile device of claim 1, wherein an exterior surface of the second segment includes a front panel, wherein a plurality of input mechanisms that include the first input mechanism are actuatable from the front panel, and wherein the front panel overlays the portion of the display assembly when the second segment is in the contracted position.

5. (Previously Presented) The mobile device of claim 1, wherein the first input mechanism includes a multi-directional member.

6. (Previously Presented) The mobile device of claim 1, further comprising a plurality of input mechanisms that include the first input mechanism, and wherein at least one of the plurality of input mechanisms is a button that can be pressed to cause an input to be entered onto the mobile device.

7. (Previously Presented) The mobile device of claim 1, further comprising a plurality of input mechanisms that the first input mechanism, and wherein at least one of the plurality of input mechanisms is actuatable by detecting surface contact.

8. (Previously Presented) The mobile device of claim 1, wherein the first segment includes a first rail, the first rail being positioned on a lateral side of the first segment, and wherein the second segment includes a first connecting member that is engaged to the first rail, the first connecting member slideable along a length of the first rail to enable the second segment to move between the contracted position and the extended position.

9. (Previously Presented) The mobile device of claim 1, wherein the first segment includes a first rail and a second rail, and wherein the second segment includes a first connecting member and a second connecting member, wherein the first connecting member is engaged to the first rail, the second connecting member being engaged to the second rail, the first connecting member and the second connecting member each being slideable along a length of the respective first rail and second rail to enable the second segment to move between the contracted position and the extended position.

10. (Previously Presented) The mobile device of claim 9, wherein the first segment comprises a front shell, a midframe, and a bottom shell, and wherein the first rail is formed onto a first surface of the midframe, and wherein the second rail is formed onto a second surface of the midframe.

11. (Previously Presented) The mobile device of claim 9, wherein the first rail and the second rail extend lengthwise on a back surface of the first segment.

12. (Previously Presented) The mobile device of claim 11, wherein the second segment includes a back plate that slides adjacent to the back surface of the mobile device.

13. (Previously Presented) The mobile device of claim 11, wherein the back plate of the second segment includes the first connecting member that slides within the first rail, and the second connecting member that slides within the second rail.

14. (Previously Presented) The mobile device of claim 1, wherein the first segment is slideably coupled to the second segment so that the second segment moves along a single axis when moving between the contracted position and the extended position.

15. (Previously Presented) The mobile device of claim 1, further comprising a midframe coupled to the first segment and the second segment.

16. (Previously Presented) The mobile device of claim 15, wherein the second segment connects to the midframe to move between the contracted position and the extended position.

17. (Previously Presented) The mobile device of claim 16, wherein the midframe includes a first rail, and wherein the second segment includes a first connecting member that is engaged to the first rail, the first connecting member

moving a distance in the first rail to enable the second segment to move between the contracted position and the extended position.

18. (Previously Presented) The mobile device of claim 16, wherein the midframe includes a first rail and a second rail, and wherein the second segment includes a first connecting member and a second connecting member, the first connecting member being engaged to the first rail, the second connecting member being engaged to the second rail, the first connecting member and the second connecting member each moving a distance in the respective first rail and second rail to enable the second segment to move between the contracted position and the extended position.

19. (Previously Presented) A mobile device comprising:
a first segment;
a display assembly accessible on a front surface of the first segment; and
a second segment slideably coupled to the first segment to move, without pivoting, between a contracted position and an extended position,
wherein an overall length of the mobile device is (i) maximized when the second segment is in the extended position, and (ii) minimized when the second segment is in the contracted position, and wherein the second segment is positioned to overlay and reduce an area of the contact-sensitive display assembly that is accessible to contact when the second segment is in the contracted position;

wherein an overall length of the mobile device is reduced when the second segment is moved towards the contracted position as compared to when the second segment is in the extended position.

20. (Previously Presented) The mobile device of claim 19, wherein the display assembly is contact-sensitive.

21. (Previously Presented) The mobile device of claim 20, wherein all of the display assembly is accessible to receive contact as input when the second segment is in the extended position.

22. (Previously Presented) The mobile device of claim 20, wherein the display assembly includes an immediate character recognition section configured to immediately recognize and display a character entry, and wherein a portion of the display assembly that is overlaid by the first segment includes the immediate character recognition section.

23. (Previously Presented) The mobile device of claim 20, wherein the display assembly includes a first section having a cross-section comprising a digitizer pad and a screen, and a second section comprising the digitizer pad without the screen, and wherein a portion of the display assembly that is overlaid by the first housing segment includes the second section.

24. (Previously Presented) The mobile device of claim 19, further comprising a midframe coupled to the first segment and the second segment.

25. (Previously Presented) The mobile device of claim 24, wherein the midframe includes a first rail, and wherein the second segment includes a first connecting member that is engaged to the first rail, the first connecting member moving a distance in the first rail to enable the second segment to move between the contracted position and the extended position.

26. (Previously Presented) The mobile device of claim 24, wherein the midframe includes a first rail and a second rail, and wherein the second segment includes a first connecting member and a second connecting member, the first connecting member being engaged to the first rail, the second connecting member being engaged to the second rail, the first connecting member and the second connecting member each moving a distance in the respective first rail and second rail to enable the second segment to move between the contracted position and the extended position.

27. (Previously Presented) A housing assembly for a mobile device, the housing comprising:
a first housing segment having a front surface, the front surface including an opening to provide access to a display surface for the mobile device;
a second housing segment moveably coupled to the first housing segment to move, without pivoting, between a contracted position and an extended position, wherein the second housing segment overlays a first region of the opening of the first housing segment when in the contracted position, and wherein the first region of the opening that is

overlaid by the second housing segment being reduced as the second housing segment is moved from the contracted position towards the extended position; and wherein an overall length of the housing assembly is (i) maximized when the second housing segment is in the extended position, and (ii) minimized when the second housing segment is in the contracted position.

28. (Original) The housing assembly of claim 27, wherein none of the first area is overlaid by the second housing segment when the second housing segment is in the extended position.

29. (Previously Presented) The housing assembly of claim 27, wherein, the first housing segment provides a top housing for the mobile device, the top housing having a reduced section provided towards a bottom of the top housing, the second housing segment provides a bottom housing for the mobile device, the bottom housing being configured to overlay at least a majority of the reduced section of the top housing when in the contracted position, and wherein the bottom housing is configured to at least not overlay the majority of the reduced section when in the extended position.

30. (Original) The housing assembly of claim 29, wherein the second housing segment includes a back plate that extends from the bottom housing to slide along a back surface of the first housing segment when the second housing segment is moved between the contracted position and the extended position.

31. (Original) The housing assembly of claim 27, wherein the first housing segment comprises a top shell, a midframe, and a bottom shell.

32. (Original) The housing assembly of claim 31, wherein the midframe has a first rail on a first lateral side of the midframe, and a second rail on a second lateral side of the midframe.

33. (Original) The housing assembly of claim 31, wherein the second housing segment includes a bottom housing and a back plate, the bottom housing being shaped to abut a top housing of the first housing segment when the second housing segment is moved into the contracted position, the back plate being positioned to slide along a back surface of the first housing segment when the second housing segment is moved between the contracted position and the extended position.

34. (Previously Presented) The housing assembly of claim 33, wherein an interior surface of the second housing segment includes a first connecting member and a second connecting member, the first connecting member and the second connecting member being slideably engaged with the first rail and the second rail.

35. (Original) The housing assembly of claim 32, wherein a back surface of the first housing segment includes a first rail and a second rail, the back surface opposing the front surface.

36. (Original) The housing assembly of claim 35, wherein the second housing segment includes a bottom housing and a back plate, the bottom housing being shaped to abut a top housing of the first housing segment when the second housing segment is moved into the contracted position, the back plate being positioned to slide along a back surface of the first housing segment when the second housing segment is moved between the contracted position and the extended position.

37. (Original) The housing assembly of claim 36, wherein the back plate is dimensioned to slide between the first rail and the second rail on the back surface of the first housing segment, and wherein the back plate includes a first connecting member to engage the first rail, and a second connecting member to engage the second rail.

38. (Original) The housing assembly of claim 27, wherein the first housing segment includes a top shell, a midframe, and a bottom shell, a first rail formed on a first lateral side of the midframe, a second rail formed on a second lateral side of the midframe, and wherein a back surface of the first housing segment includes a third rail and a fourth rail.

39. (Previously Presented) The housing assembly of claim 38, wherein the second housing segment includes a first bottom housing and a back plate, and wherein the first housing segment includes a top housing and a reduced section, the bottom housing of the second housing segment being moveable over the reduced section of the first housing segment to abut the top housing when the second housing segment is positioned in the contracted position, wherein the back plate is dimensioned to move within the first rail and the second rail of the first housing segment to slide along the back surface of the first housing segment, and wherein an interior of the bottom housing includes a first connecting member that is engaged with the first rail provided on the midframe, and a second connecting member that is engaged with the second rail provided on the midframe.

40. (Original) The housing assembly of claim 37, wherein the first connecting member and the second connecting member are each biased, wherein the first rail is configured to retain the first connecting member in an unbiased state at a position

corresponding to the contracted position and at another position corresponding to the extended position, and wherein the second rail is configured to retain the second connecting member in an unbiased state at a position corresponding to the contracted position and at another position corresponding to the extended position.

41. (Previously Presented) A mobile device comprising:
a first segment on which a first input feature is provided;
a second segment slideably coupled to the first segment to move primarily along one axis, without pivoting, between a contracted position and an extended position, the second segment providing a second input feature, wherein an overall length of the mobile device is (i) maximized when the second segment is in the extended position, and (ii) minimized when the second segment is in the contracted position, and wherein the second segment overlays a portion of the first segment when moved towards the contracted position so as to reduce a length of the mobile device.

42. (Previously Presented) The mobile device of claim 41, wherein the first input feature corresponds to a contact-sensitive display.

43. (Previously Presented) The mobile device of claim 41, wherein the second input feature corresponds to one or more buttons.

44. (Previously Presented) The mobile device of claim 41, wherein the first segment has a reduced section that has a lesser thickness than a remainder of the first portion, and wherein the second segment slides over the reduced section when moving towards the contracted position.

45. (Previously Presented) A mobile device comprising:
- a first segment;
 - a second segment moveably coupled to the first segment to move primarily along one axis, without pivoting, between a contracted position and an extended position, wherein an overall length of the mobile device is (i) maximized when the second segment is in the extended position, and (ii) minimized when the second segment is in the contracted position, and wherein the overall length of the mobile device is reduced when the second segment is moved towards the contracted position as compared to when the second segment is in the extended position;
 - a display assembly provided by the first segment;
 - a first input mechanism provided by the second segment;
- wherein when the second segment is in the contracted position, the first segment and the second segment are at least partially overlaid, so that access to at least one of either the first input mechanism and the display assembly is at least partially blocked.
46. (Previously Presented) The mobile device of claim 45, wherein the display assembly is contact-sensitive.
47. (Previously Presented) The mobile device of claim 45, wherein the first input mechanism includes a set of one or more buttons.
48. (Previously Presented) The mobile device of claim 45, wherein the first input mechanism includes a plurality of one or more mechanical input mechanisms.

49. (Previously Presented) The mobile device of claim 45, wherein the first segment overlays the second segment so that the display assembly covers at least a portion of the first input mechanism.

50. (Previously Presented) The mobile device of claim 45, wherein the second segment is configured to slide towards and away from the first segment.

IX. EVIDENCE APPENDIX

None

X. RELATED PROCEEDINGS APPENDIX

None

XI. CONCLUSION

For at least the foregoing reasons, applicant submits that pending claims 1-50 are not anticipated by *Boesen* and respectfully requests that their rejection be overturned.

AUTHORIZATION TO CHARGE DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

A petition for a two (2) month extension of time is included herewith. Please charge deposit account 50-1914 for any underpayments in connection with this Office Action response.

Respectfully submitted,
Shemwell Mahamedi LLP

Date: January 16, 2007

/Zurvan Mahamedi/
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